

actuating a second spring mechanism to move said outer hollow cannula distally, relative to said distal end portion, so that said distal end portion retracts in a radial direction and thereby surrounds the tissue sample, severing the tissue sample from surrounding tissue; and withdrawing said instrument, with the tissue sample from said patient.

34( 15 38. A method as recited in Claim 37, wherein said distal portion of said inner member comprises an alligator tip having a pair of hinged jaws.

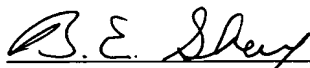
16 39. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said distal portion of said inner member comprises a plurality of hook extractors.

---

#### REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that the new Claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests consideration of the application and early notification of allowance of these claims. If, however, after review of the present amendment, there are any issues left unresolved or if the Examiner otherwise believes that an interview with Applicant's attorney would be appropriate or helpful, then the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bernard E. Shay  
Reg. No. 32,061  
Attorney for the Applicants

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003  
(513) 337-3231  
Dated: March 8, 2001